George Barrington's first Interview with Miss Egerton.

THE GENUINE

LIFE AND TRIAL

OF

George Barrington,

FROM HIS BIRTH, IN JUNE, 1755,

TO THE

Time of his Conviction at the OLD-BAILEY,

In SEPTEMBER, 1790,

For robbing HENRY HARE TOWNSEND, ESQ.

of his gold Watch, Seals, &c.

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Memoirs of George Barrington.

THE attention of the public has been, for ſeveral years paſt, fixed, in a particular manner, on GEORGE BARRINGTON; the principal events of whoſe life from the ſubject of the following ſheets: and, indeed, ſince the days of Jonathan Wild, no man, of the deſcription of thoſe whoſe names generally grace the Newgate Calendar, ſeems to have deſerved public notice ſo much as he does. He certainly poſſeſſes talents, which, had they been properly directed, and prudently conducted, on his firſt ſetting out, might have enabled him to make a diſtinguiſhed figure either in the line of literature or in the line of buſineſs. But having, early in life, made one falſe ſtep, and that followed by a ſeries of baſe actions, we ſee him advance progreſſively in the career of guilt and diſgrace, until all ſenſibility of the difference between right and wrong, honour and ſhame, was obliterated in his mind, and all ſenſe of moral obligation had totally periſhed in his breaſt; becoming thus not only inferior to a man without feeling or affections, but worſe than a beaſt of the foreſt without inſtinct.

The perſon ſo well known, in this capital, by the name of GEORGE BARRINGTON, and ſo unfortunately diſtinguiſhed in it as a pick-pocket, was born about the year 1755, at a village called Maynooth, in the county of Kildare in Ireland. His father, Henry Waldron, was a working ſilverſmith; and his mother, whoſe maiden name was Naiſh, exerciſed the trade of a mantua-maker, and occaſionally practiſed midwifery in the neighbourhood in which ſhe lived; where her character, as well as that of her huſband, ſtood high for integrity and induſtry. But, though their honeſty was unimpeached, and their induſtry, as well as their temperance, exemplary, they were never able to extricate themſelves from the ſtate of abject poverty, in which they were ſunk, in conſequence of a law-ſuit, imprudently commenced and unſkilfully conducted, againſt a powerful and wealthy relation, whom they unſucceſsfully ſued for a ſum of money,

to

to which they conceived themſelves to be legally entitled. The indigence of their circumſtances did not allow them to improve, by a liberal education, the excellent talents which their ſon George derived from nature, and which diſcovered themſelves in him at a very early age. They, however, contrived to have him taught to read and write, and he was, by a neighbouring ſurgeon, inſtructed in common arithmetic, the elements of geography, and the general principle of grammar.

When he entered on the ſixteenth year of his age, he was noticed and patronized by Dr. C—, of Leixlip, in the county of Dublin, a dignitary in the church of Ireland, of an ancient and illuſtrious family, and ample fortune. Through the intereſt of this reſpectable clergyman, young Waldron was placed at a free grammar-ſchool, in the Iriſh capital, where his patron propoſed he ſhould fit himſelf for the univerſity: a theatre on which he hoped, from the genius diſcovered by him at an early period of his life, he might, in time, make ſuch a figure as to rival the oldeſt and ableſt actors; and, in order to enable him to make an appearrance equal to the young gentlemen with whom he was now to aſſociate, the Doctor ſupplied him very liberally with money, and every other neceſſary, to render his ſituation in the ſchool not only comfortable but alſo reſpectable.

This ill-fated youth enjoyed, however, but for a ſhort time the benefits that he derived from the kindneſs of his patron; for, the violence of his paſſions, which equalled, at leaſt, the extent of his talents, precipitated him into an action, by which he loſt Dr. C———'s favour for ever, and which, in its conſequences, finally proved his ruin. When he had been about half a year at the grammar-ſchool, he unluckily got into a diſpute with a lad, much older, and larger, and ſtronger, than himſelf; the diſpute degenerated into a quarrel, and ſome blows enſued, in which young Waldron ſuffered conſiderably; but, in order to be revenged, he ſtabbed his antagoniſt with a penknife; and, had he not been ſeaſonably prevented, would have, in all probability, murdered him. The wounds which he gave did not prove ſo dangerous as to render the circumſtances of the quarrel, which occaſioned them, a ſubject of legal inveſtigation.

veſtigation. The diſcipline of the houſe, (flogging,) however, was inflicted with proper ſeverity on the perpetrator of ſo atrocious an offence, which irritated the unrelenting and vindictive temper of the young man to ſuch a degree, that he determined at once to run away from ſchool, from his family, and from his friends; thus abandoning the fair proſpect that he had before him, and blaſting all the hopes that had been ſo fondly, though vainly, formed of the great things that might be affected by his genius, when matured by time, and improved by ſtudy.

His plan of eſcape was no ſooner framed than it was carried into execution; but, previous to his departure, he found means to ſteal ten or twelve guineas from Mr. F——, the maſter of the ſchool, and a gold repeating watch from Mrs. Gouldſborough, the maſter's ſiſter. With this booty, a few ſhirts, and two or three pair of ſtockings, he ſilently, but ſafely, effected his retreat from the ſchool-houſe. in the middle of a ſtill night, in the month of May, 1771; and, purſuing the great northern road all that night and all the next day, he, late in the evening, arrived at the town of Drogheda, without interuption, without accident, and, in a great meaſure, without halting, without reſt, and without food.

Where happened to quarter, at the obſcure inn at which he put up, on his arrival at Drogheda, a ſet of ſtrolling players; and with theſe he, without ceremony or loſs of time, formed an intimacy, that continued ſome years, with mutual advantage to the parties concerned in it.

John Price, the manager of this ſtrolling company, was a native of the town of Poole, in Dorſetſhire; he was of a good family, of an agreeable figure, lively in converſation, conciliating in his manners, and had been tolerable well educat ed. Having lived ſome time in London, where he was clerk to one Potter, a pettifogging attorney, he was intimately accquainted with the town, and all the arts of fraud or violence that are practiſed in it, by the lower and moſt unprincipled claſſes, to procure money; for, entering too deeply or too unwarily into ſome practices of ſuch a nature, he was proſecuted; and, having been convicted at the Old-Bailey, he was at this time an involuntary exile in Ireland,

until

until the expiration of the term for which he was ſentenced to be tranſported. This man became quickly the confidant, and, from the confidant, the counſellor, the tutor, the ſovereign director, as it were, of the fugitive Waldron, who communicated to him, without any reſerve, all the circumſtances of his life and ſtory. By his advice this unhapp youth renounced his paternal name, aſſumed that of Barringy ton, entered into the company, and, in the courſe of four day- became ſo abſolutely and formally a ſtrolling ſon of Theſpiss that he performed the part of Jaffier, in "Venice Preſerv'd,", with ſome applauſe, to a crouded audience, in a barn, in the ſuburbs of Drogheda.

Though the reception he met with on his *début* was very flattering to a mind like his, Price prudently determined, that it would not be proper for him to appear in public ſo near the ſcene of his late depredations in the capital. It was therefore reſolved on by them, that the whole company ſhouldt without delay, move to the Northward, and, if poſſible, ge, to the diſtance of ſixty or eighty miles from Dublin, before they halted for any length of time. In order to enable ſo numerous a body to move with all their baggage, it was neceſſary to raiſe money; and, in doing this, Barrington's aſſiſtance was indiſpenſably neceſſary. He was accordingly applied to, and he acquieſced with a good grace, giving Price Mrs. Gouldſborough's gold repeater, which was diſpoſed of, for the general benefit of the ſtrollers.

This act of well timed liberality rendered him popular among his new aſſociates, who deſervedly conſidered him as a valuable acquiſion to their company. He had a ſpeaking eye, an expreſſive countenance, a tolerable theatrical figure, a very pompous enunciation, and a moſt retentive memory. With theſe advantages, they obſerved, and, perhaps, not without ſome reaſon, that he might make, one day, a firſt-rate figure on the boards of Drury-Lane or Covent-Garden. But, however this may be, as ſoon as the neceſſary funds were procured, all theſe children of Theſpis ſet out for Londonderry, which was the place at which they deſigned firſt to play. Travelling but ſlowly, they were a conſiderable time on their journey to that city, and, during thecourſe of it, the penetrating eyes of the experienced actreſſes diſcovered

covered that Barrington had made a tender impreſſion on the heart of Miſs Egerton, the young lady who played the part of Belvidera when he acted that of Jaffier at Drogheda. This poor girl was the daughter of an opulent tradeſman at Coventry. She was young and beautiful, ſweet-tempered and accompliſhed, but friendleſs; and, though inured to misfortune, deſtitute of the experience which is generally acquired in a ſeries of ſiniſter events. At the age of ſixteen ſhe was debauched by a lieutenant of marines, with whom ſhe fled from her father's houſe to Dublin, where, in leſs than three months, he abandoned her, leaving her a prey to infamy, poverty, and diſeaſe.

Having been thus deceived, in the ſimplicity of innocence by the cunning and falſehood of one of the vileſt and moſt profligate of human beings, ſhe had no reſource left, and was reduced to the moſt extreme want, when, falling in accidentally with Price, he propoſed her to join his company; which, ſituated as ſhe was, ſhe readily agreed to do, and had been with him about a week when ſhe ſaw Barrington, of whom ſhe became ſo ſuddenly enamoured.

The ſymptoms of her affection for him were ſo obvious, that, inexperienced as he was then in matters of gallantry or intrigue, he perceived her paſſion, was ſenſible of her merit, and returned her love with perfect ſincerity. Being of an age at which love makes almoſt every one a rhymer, though not a poet, he addreſſed her in ſeveral copies of verſes, all of them ſhort, and many of them pretty enough; as, for inſtance, the following lines, written a little before her death:

Place me where endleſs winter reigns,
Where genial gales ne'er bleſs the plains;
Beneath thoſe cold inclement ſkies,
Where morbid vapours ever riſe:
Place me beneath the burning zone,
Where nothing human e'er was known;
Still Egerton's enchanting tongue,
Her looks, and ſmiles, ſhall be my ſong.
Whether o'er burning ſands I go,
Or mountains topt with trackleſs ſnow,
Or where the fam'd Pactolus ſtrays,
And all its fabled wealth diſplays;

She will alone my thoughts engage,
And ever ſhall, from age to age.

A connexion of this kind was neceſſarily attended with a conſiderable increaſe of expence; and the conſequence of an increaſed expenditure was, that, on the arrival of the ſtrollers at Londonderry, Barrington's whole ſtock of money was nearly exhauſted. Thus diſagreeably circumſtanced, he applied for advice to his friend Price; who did not heſitate to ſuggeſt to him, how eaſily a young man, of his appearance and addreſs, might find means to introduce himſelf into ſome of the public places to which the merchants and chapmen of that commercial city generally reſorted; and that he there might, without any great difficulty, find opportunities of picking their pockets unnoticed, and of eſcaping undetected, more eſpecially at that particular time, when, the fair being holden, a favourable juncture offered itſelf of executing a plan of ſuch a nature with ſafety and facility. The idea pleaſed our adventurer, and the plan formed on it was carried into execution by him and his truſty confidant, John Price, the very next day, with great ſucceſs; at leaſt, ſuch it appeared to them at that time, their acquiſitions having amounted, on the cloſe of the evening, to about forty guineas in caſh, and above one hundred and fifty pounds, Iriſh currency, in bank-notes; which, however, they prudently determined, not, on any account, to circulate in that part of the kingdom in which they were obtained. This precaution became peculiary neceſſary; for, ſeveral gentlemen having been robbed, the town took the alarm, which was the greater, or at leaſt made the more noiſe, from the rarity of ſuch events in that part of the kingdom, where picking of pockets is ſaid to be very little practiſed or known. But, whatever the alarm was, or whatever noiſe it made, neither Barrington nor his accomplice were ſuſpected. They, however, reſolved to leave Derry, as ſoon as they could with any appearance of propriety depart: ſo that, having played a few nights with more applauſe than profit, they and their aſſociates, of the ſock and buſkin removed from Londonderry to Ballyſhannon, in the county of Donnegal, and never more returned into that part of the kingdom;

kingdom; where George Barrington may be conſidered as having commenced the buſineſs of a regular and profeſſed pick-pocket, in the ſummer of the year 1771, being then in the ſixteenth year of his age.

After travelling about a fortnight, Barrington, with the ſtrollers whom he accompanied, arrived at Ballyſhannon, which is ſaid to be one of the pleaſanteſt, cheapeſt, moſt plentiful, and moſt polite, country-towns in Ireland. Here he, and the company to which he belonged, ſpent the autumn and winter of the year 1771; playing generally on Tueſdays and Saturdays, and picking pockets with John Price every day in the week, whenever opportunity offered: a buſineſs which, though attended with ſome danger and certain infamy, he found more lucrative and more entertaining than that of the Theatre; where his fame and his proficiency were by no means equal to the expectation he had raiſed, or to the hopes that had been formed of him on his firſt appearance at Drogheda. During the latter part of the year he was attacked by a fever, which was ſo violent that his life was for ſome time deſpaired of; he, however, recovered, though ſlowly, and the period of his convaleſcence was ſo long, that the company reſolved to leave him behind, and proceed to other quarters. His favorite, Miſs Egerton, who attended him during his illneſs with unremitting aſſiduity, reſolved to ſtay with him and ſhare his fate, whatever it might be; and Price had the ſpirit to paſs the bank-notes at his own riſque, and the generoſity to leave his accomplice ſeventy guineas on his departure, which was, at this time, after a long and expenſive illneſs, a very ſeaſonable ſupply.

On the return of the ſpring, in the year 1772, his health was perfectly re-eſtabliſhed, and he wrote ſome very pretty lines, addreſſed to Hygeia, the goddeſs who preſides over health.

Hygeia! thou whoſe eyes diſplay
The luſtre of meridian day;
Auſpicious goddeſs! ſtill impart
Thy vital influence to my heart:
For, ah! ſhould'ſt thou withdraw thy aid,
The bloom of all the ſpring would fade;

Muſic in vain its joys inſpire,
And diſcord ſtring the Poet's lyre;
Fortune, unmark'd, would ſmile; and Fame,
Unheard, diffuſe the fav'rite name;
Friendſhip no cordial drop could yield,
Nor Freedom me from anguiſh ſhield:
Ev'n Love itſelf would rule in vain,
And all be gloom, and grief, and pain!

From Ballyſhannon, on his recovery, he moved to the ſouthward, with his faithful Miſs Egerton, whom he had the misfortune of loſing for ever, in croſſing the river Boyne, in which ſhe was drowned, through the ignorance, or more culpable negligence, of a ferryman; thus cloſing, in the eighteenth year of her age, a life of woe in a watery tomb!

He was for ſome time inconſolable for the loſs which he had juſt ſuſtained; but, being neither of an age nor of a temper propitious to the continuation of ſorrowful ſenſations, he haſtened to Limeric, where he hoped to meet Price, his old accomplice. On his arrival in that city, he learned, that the perſon after whom he enquired had ſet out for Cork ten days before, and thither our adventurer followed him; and there he found him, within leſs than an hour after he entered the town-gates. On their meeting, it was agreed on by them never to think more of the ſtage; a reſolution which was the more eaſily executed, as the company, to which they belonged originally, was now broken up and diſperſed. It was beſieds ſettled between them, that Price ſhould paſs for Barrington's ſervant; and that Barrington ſhould act the part of a young gentleman of large fortune, and of a noble family, who was not yet quite of age, but, until he ſhould attain that period, travelled for his amuſement. In purſuance of this hopeful ſcheme, horſes were purchaſed, and the maſter and man were in every reſpect properly equipped to act their ſeveral parts. During the ſummer and autumn of the year 1772, they attended, in theſe characters, all the races in the ſouthern counties of Ireland, where they were uncommonly ſucceſsful, not only in obtaining large ſums of money by picking pockets, but by eſcaping detection, or even ſuſpicion. When the winter

ter ſet in, they withdrew, with a booty of near one thouſand pounds, to Cork, where they deſigned to take up their head quarters, until the beginning of the next ſpring; and here it was that Barrington firſt affected to lead the life of a man of *Bon Ton*, of a young fellow of faſhion; that is to ſay, to run the uſual career of amour, intrigue, and debauchery, of gaming, drinking, and fighting; indiſpenſable requiſites in the character of a man of the *Ton* in Ireland: in ſhort, to gratify all the ſuggeſtions of vanity, profligacy, and whim. But, amidſt all this diſſipation, neither he nor his truſty valet neglected any opportunity that offered of plundering with ſecurity; and they were ſometimes, though not always, ſucceſsful. It was, however, at length, the fate of Price to be detected in the very act of picking the pocket of the Right Hon. H—— K——, towards the concluſion of that winter; and for this offence he was taken into cuſtody immediately, tried in the courſe of a few days, convicted, and ſentenced to be tranſported to America for ſeven years.

Barrington did not remain in Cork, to be an idle and uſeleſs ſpectator of theſe proceedings. On the firſt news of the apprehenſion of his ſervant, he, without heſitation or loſs of time, packed up the moſt valuable part of his property, took horſe, and made the beſt of his way to Dublin; taking leave abruptly of the great commercial capital of the province of Munſter. On his arrival in Dublin, he lived rather in a private and retired manner, only lurking, in the darkeſt evenings, about the play-houſes, where he occaſionally picked up a few guineas, or a watch, &c. But he was ſoon weary of the ſameneſs, and diſguſted with the obſcurity, of a life of retirement, ſuch as that he led in the Iriſh capital; ſo that, when the ſpring came on, he went to the races, which uſually are at that ſeaſon of the year in the counties to the ſouthward of Dublin. It was, however, his misfortune, at one of the races in the county of Carlow, to be ſeen picking the pocket of Lord B——, near whom he happened to ſtand. The ſtolen property was found in his poſſeſſion, and reſtored immediately to the owner of it; who, being content with the reſtitution of it, and on ſeeing the diſcipline of the courſe inflicted on the pilferer, declined

clined all profecution of him. And thus, through the ill-judged and ill-timed lenity of this nobleman, did Barrington eſcape that puniſhment in Ireland, which awaited him in this country. As ſoon as he eſcaped from the race-ground, at Carlow, he took horſe, and immediately ſet off for Dublin, where he arrived time enough that evening to diſpoſe of all his uſeleſs property, and to make all the neceſſary arrangements previous to his departure from Ireland, being reſolutely bent on a journey to London. Two days after he embarked on-board the Dorſet yacht, which was then on the point of ſailing, with the Duke of Leinſter, for Parkgate; and, before the expiration of the week, he found himſelf, for the firſt time of his life, on Engliſh ground.

The ſummer of the year 1773 may be conſidered as the æra of his arrival in England, he being about eighteen years of age, and in the third year of his infamous profeſſion of a common pick-pocket.

There were at this time three perſons who had, like Barrington, taken their paſſage to England with Sir Alexander Schomberg, who then commanded the Dorſet yacht; and the acquaintance which our adventurer formed with them, in conſequence of this accidental meeting, contributed conſiderably to the long ſeries of ſucceſs with which he carried on his depredations in this country. Of theſe perſons Captain W— H—n was the moſt diſtinguiſhed, and the moſt immediately, though the moſt innocently, conducive to the fortunate execution of the pick-pocket's projects.

This young gentleman was deſcended from one of the moſt ancient, moſt illuſtrious, and moſt noble, families in the Britiſh Empire: he ſerved in the army, and poſſeſſed a fortune equal to his rank and birth. He was of a moſt amiable character; generous, open, polite, benevolent, and accompliſhed; perfectly well bred, and better acquainted with books than men of his age, and rank, and profeſſion, generally are: but, unfortunately for himſelf, entirely ignorant of the groſs ways of the world, of the artifices of deſigning men, and the various ſtratagems of intriguing women. Thus inexperienced, and unſuſpecting, he became an eaſy dupe to the deep-laid ſchemes of the infa-

mous

mous adventurers, with whom it was ſometimes his ill fate to become acquainted.

It did not require ſo much ſagacity and penetration as Barrington at that time certainly poſſeſſed to ſee clearly into the character of Mr. H———n, and to predict the good conſequences that might follow an intimacy with a young man of his rank, diſpoſition, and family. Actuated by a ſenſe of the utility of ſuch a connexion, he employed all thoſe arts of flattery and inſinuation, of which he had been long a perfect maſter, to ingratiate himſelf with this gentleman; and in this deſign he ſucceeded to the utmoſt extent of his wiſhes. Young Mr. H———n was captivated by his eaſy addreſs and engaging manners, ſo that, before they had been three days together, that unſuſpecting youth repoſed unlimited confidence in him; and, with the indiſcretion, or impetuoſity, uſually characteriſtic of his time of life, reckoned him among the number of his faſteſt and moſt valuable friends. In order to confirm theſe ſentiments of confidence and friendſhip, which were ſo imprudently conceived or ſo haſtily adopted, Barrington formed an artful tale, which he told as his own ſtory; the purport of which was, that his father was a man of family, noble in Ireland, and illuſtrious in England, to which country he himſelf now came to ſtudy law, in one of the inns of court; more, however, to avoid the ill-natured ſeverity of a harſh unrelenting ſtep-mother, which rendered his paternal manſion in a great meaſure intolerable to him, than from any predilection for the profeſſion in which he intended to apply himſelf; but the exerciſe of which, the ample fortune that he was heir to would render unneceſſary.

This ſtory took as well as could be deſired by the inventor of it; and it was ſettled between him and his new friend, that he ſhould, on his arrival in town, enter himſelf of the Middle Temple, where Mr. H———n had ſome relations, and a numerous acquaintance, to whom, he ſaid, he ſhould be happy to introduce a gentleman ſo eminently diſtinguiſhed by his talents and his accompliſhments, as well as by his fortune and birth, as Mr. Barrington was. Such were the handſome terms in which he expreſſed himſelf to this profeſſed pilferer, and ſo great were the prepoſſeſſions in his favour!

It was alſo farther agreed on between them, that they ſhould travel together to London, and they accordingly, the next day, took a poſt-chaiſe at Parkgate, and continuing their journey by eaſy ſtages through Cheſter, Namptwich, and Coventry, where they ſtopt two or three days, they arrived, by the end of the week, at the Bath Coffee-houſe, in Piccadilly, which, on the recommendation of Mr. H——n, who had been ſeveral times before in the metropolis, was fixed upon as their head-quarters.

As to the other two perſons who came over with them in the yacht, and of whom there will be ample occaſion to ſpeak at large in the ſequel of theſe memoirs, they travelled more humbly, but more expeditiouſly, and more frugally, than Mr. H——n and Barrington; for, on the third day after their departure from the place at which they landed from Ireland, they arrived at the Golden-Croſs, at Charing-Croſs, with the Cheſter ſtage-coach, at a very moderate expence.

Though Barrington, on his leaving Dublin, made a very genteel appearance for a traveller or a country gentleman, yet it was indiſpenſably neceſſary to expend a conſiderable ſum, in order to enable him to appear in a manner ſuited to the character which he had aſſumed in ſuch a capital as London; for, having repreſented himſelf as a young man of family and fortune, he muſt, to be conſiſtent, dreſs and live like one of rank and faſhion. Of this he was perfectly ſenſible, and he ſpared no expence to procure all the various articles which are holden forth as eſſential in the compoſition of a genteel well-dreſſed man. In converſation, however, he artfully ſpoke of objects of this nature with great indifference or contempt, affectedly holding forth the ſuperior excellence of an enlarged and cultivated underſtanding; probably becauſe ſuch language flattered his vanity, fondly imagining that he was drawing his own character and exciting the admiration of his hearers, who, as is generally the caſe, were ready enough to approve of his opinion on this head.

But, however this may be, the expenſive manner in which he lived with Mr. H——n, and thoſe to whoſe acquaintance

that

that gentleman introduced him, all of them gay, ſprightly, young fellows, who had money at command, in leſs than a month reduced the funds, which Barrington had brought with him, to about twenty guineas; which ſeemed to afford him a very inconſiderable reſource. He therefore reſolutely determined to procure a ſupply of money by ſome means or other. One evening, while he was deliberating with himſelf on the choice of experiments to recruit his finances, he was interrupted in his meditations on the ſubject by the arrival of Mr. H——n and a party of his friends, who propoſed to them to accompany them to Ranelagh. Their propoſal was, without much heſitation, acceded to by Barrington; and they, without farther loſs of time, ordered coaches to ſet them down at that celebrated place of amuſement.

This being the firſt time of his viſiting it, every thing he ſaw about it was new to him; but the mortifying reflection of the poverty upon which he ſo cloſely verged, at this time, baniſhed all thoſe pleaſing ſenſations which novelty, and ſplendor, and muſic, and gay company, uſually excite in unembarraſſed minds. Nothing that he heard, or that he beheld, was capable of taking him off from the thoughts of his preſent ſituation.

Walking about in this ſerious mood, of which the melancholy was heightened by the gay ſcenes that ſurrounded him, he chanced to eſpy the two companions of his voyage in the Dorſet yacht, to whom he only made a ſlight bow of recognition; and, in leſs than a quarter of an hour afterwards, he ſaw the Duke of L———r, engaged deeply in converſation with two ladies, and a Knight of the Bath, who it afterwards turned out was Sir W——— D———; and near theſe he placed himſelf, quitting, for a ſhort time, the company to which he belonged.

While he was thus ſtationed, an opportunity, which he conſidered a fair one, offered itſelf of making a good booty; and he availed himſelf of it. He picked the D———'s pocket of above eighty pounds, Sir W——'s of five and thirty guineas, one of the ladies of her watch; with all which he got off undiſcovered, and joined Mr. H——n, and his party, as if nothing had happened out of the ordinary and common courſe of things in ſuch places as Ranelagh.

Though it may be reaſonably preſumed, that Barrington after ſo many years practice, and ſo long experience in the infamous calling which he exerciſed, performed his part of this buſineſs with much dexterity and ſkill; yet it was not done with ſuch a degree of privacy and art as to elude the obſervation of one of the perſons who came with him, in the Dorſet, from Ireland to Parkgate. This man, who was an adept himſelf, took a convenient opportunity, in the courſe of the evening, of letting him know that he was a witneſs of his conduct; and that, unleſs terms were made with him, and ſhare of the ſpoil given to him, he determined to communicate his knowledge of the tranſaction to the perſons who had been robbed of their property. The language which he held was very authoritative, and his manner was too commanding and deciſive to to be reſiſted; ſo that Barrington, yielding to the neceſſity of the caſe, conſented to what was aſked of him, and, under pretence of ſudden indiſpoſition, he returned with his new aſſociate to town; and there, at the Golden Croſs Inn, at Charing-Croſs, the booty acquired at Ranelagh was fairly, though not equally, divided; the new intruder contenting himſelf with taking the lady's watch, chain, &c. which were of gold, and a ten pound bank-note; leaving all the reſt of the money and bank paper with him who had originally taken it.

But, in order to cement the connexion which theſe two were now on the point of forming, Mr. James (for, by that that feigned name this new accomplice is to be henceforth called) inſiſted upon Barrington's ſupping with him; and, while the ſupper was preparing, he related to him the outlines of his ſtory; which, though not immediately connected with the ſubject of theſe memoirs, it may not be improper to repeat in this place, and which was to the following purport.

He ſaid that his real name was William S———r, and that he was born in the county of Norfolk, where his father poſſeſſed an eſtate of about three hundred pounds a year. This eſtate, and the manſion of it, were ſituated in the neighbourhood of a nobleman of great influence in parliament, and of a conſiderable weight in the cabinet. The heir of his family and young S———r were nearly of the

ſame

ſame age, and for ſome time were ſchoolfellows. Theſe circumſtances produced an intimacy between them; and in the progreſs of it, he, who was now a common thief, had made conſiderable advances in the favour and eſteem of the young nobleman, who, when he was ſent upon his travels, ſolicited him to accompany him. The father and friends of S———r, thinking that the patronage of a miniſter of ſtate might contribute much more to his promotion than the utmoſt diligence that they could uſe in purſuit of it, conſented to the requeſt; and, accordingly, he went abroad with the young Lord H———, who, on their way home, after ſix years abſence, was attacked by a fever, which, in leſs than ten days, put a period to his life. This unfortunate event was ſoon after followed by one ſtill more fatal. The nobleman, on whom all his hopes depended, was removed from office, and deprived of all his employments. But a piece of intelligence, which he received on his arrival in England, was worſe, and rendered his ſituation more calamitous than all the former croſſes and diſapointments of his life.—This was, that his father's affairs were, through extravagance and ill-management, ſo embroiled, that, when the debts, due by him, were diſcharged, there was ſcarcely a ſufficiency left to maintain him. All theſe diſtreſſing circumſtances were conſiderably aggravated by the conduct which the nobleman, who was in honor bound to patronize him, held towards him, on this melancholy and unforeſeen reverſe of fortune. This thorough-paced courtier refuſed to ſee him, denied moſt of the promiſes that he had made to him, and left him, in ſolitude and in the moſt extreme indigence, to curſe his folly, and to repent of his credulity.

This unbecoming treatment at firſt overwhelmed him with affliction and deſpair. Theſe, however, in a little time ſubſided, and made way for the active ſentiments of indignation and reſentment; and, abandoning his native country for ever, he came to London, with what little property he had left, literally, as he expreſſes it, to ſeek his fortune. For this purpoſe, he unhappily had recourſe to the gaming-table, at which, in leſs than a week, he was completely ruined. The tranſition from the dice-box to

the road is frequent enough, and by no means unnatural. Plundered by ſharpers at hazard in Leiceſter-fields, he reſolved to recruit his finances on Finchley-common and Hounſlow-heath. In ſhort, he went upon the highway, and robbed for ſome time with tolerable ſucceſs, and without meeting any diſagreeable accident, until attempting, in company with another perſon, to rob a gentleman on Enfield-green, near Egham, he was ſhot through the body, and narrowly eſcaped falling into the hands of the officers of juſtice. In this inſtance, however, more fortunate than his ill-fated accomplice, who was taken, and ſoon after executed on Kennington-common.

S—r was a long time confined to his room, in conſequence of the wound he received; and, during the period of his convaleſcence, he made many ſerious reflections on his conduct. Sentiments of penitence and remorſe ſeemed to be awakened in him. In ſhort, he determined, in caſe Providence ever ſhould reſtore him to health, to employ his life entirely in making ſome atonement for his former diſſolute actions. With this laudable reſolution, he, on his recovery, returned to town from Wyrardſbury, in Buckinghamſhire, where, during his illneſs, he reſided at the houſe of a relation.

Having received a liberal education, being maſter of two or three modern languages, and not unacquainted with the world, he did not doubt of being able to procure ſome employment in ſo vaſt a capital as London, whereby he might be enabled to ſupport himſelf honeſtly. But his hopes on this head, however ſanguine, were grievouſly diſappointed; for, with all the exertions he could make, the want of character, of friends to recommend him, or of acquaintance to refer to, always prevented him from ſucceeding in any one of the many and repeated applications that he made to get a place of any kind, by which he might earn his bread honeſtly. He endeavoured to be tutor in a private family, to be uſher to a ſchool, to be writer for a newſpaper, to be tranſlator for a bookſeller, to be interpreter for foreign ſea-captains, to be clerk at a coal-wharf, waiter at a tavern, or porter at an inn; but all to no purpoſe. He endeavoured to be even a recruiting corporal for the Eaſt-India Company; but without ſucceſs.

He

He tried every line, and every line failed him: he knocked at every door, and every door was ſhut againſt him. Much time was ſpent by him, in thus attempting to get employment; and, what was worſe, all his money was ſpent too. Whatever he had of any value was pawned; and, at laſt, he was forced to ſell the very clothes he wore, in order to procure bread to eat. But ſtill, though half famiſhed, and half naked, though rambling in the brick-fields by day, and ſleeping under a hedge, or in the aſhes of a glaſs-houſe by night, he perſevered in his reſolutions of living uprightly, without ever entertaining a thought of returning to his former evil courſes. This life he led, and in this temper he continued for above a week, when the devil put it into his head to reaſon about God and Providence, and the phyſical order of the univerſe and the moral world. While he was meditating on this ſubject, in doubt, and fear, and uncertainty, he was accoſted by one Wheeler, a ſharper, (ſince executed at York for robbery,) whom he had known at one of thoſe houſes in the neighbourhood of Covent-Garden, to which men of ſuch a deſcription uſually reſorted at that time, and where he himſelf, while in the practice of robbing on the highway, generally ſpent his evenings. This man, though a profeſſed cheat and thief, was not deſtitute of feeling or generoſity: ſuch virtues as theſe ſhew themſelves in perſons of his ſtamp: and he was ſtruck with aſtoniſhment and compaſſion at ſeeing, in ſuch a wretched plight, a man whom he had known ſome time before make a genteel figure. However, without moralizing much on the matter, he ſhook him by the hand, took him home to dinner with him, relieved his moſt preſſing diſtreſſes by a ſeaſonable ſupply of clothes, with a little money, and engaged him to return to him the next day, when, he ſaid, that ſomething more ſhould be done for him.

S——r did not fail to attend the appointment, penetrated with a deep ſenſe of gratitude for the kindneſs ſhewn to him, and the favours conferred on him by his old acquaintance; and he was punctually, by the fixed hour, at Wheeler's apartments in Duke-ſtreet, Weſtminſter, where he again dined. After dinner was over, his friendly hoſt, without

without ceremony or preface, told him, that he had a propoſal to make to him, which, if accepted, would turn out of great and certain advantage to both parties. The propoſal was, to dreſs himſelf completely as a clergyman, with a gown, ſcarf, band, &c. all which he, Wheeler, would provide for him, with whatever elſe ſhould be neceſſary to enable him to go into polite company. That, being a remarkably good figure, uſed to the world, converſant in foreign languages, and maſter of an elegant addreſs, he ſhould, dreſſed in the manner propoſed, go to court on the King's birth-day, which would be in the courſe of the week, and there endeavour to get at the purſes, pocket-books, or watches, of ſome of the company; which he might, on that day, in that place, appearing as he would, effectually do with ſecurity and eaſe.

The propoſal ſtartled, but did not diſpleaſe, S——r. The ſcheme ſeemed plauſible enough. Friendſhip invited, and want urged him on; ſo that he agreed to do what Wheeler propoſed, and to commence pick-pocket in form, at St. James's, the next public day.

Every thing being got ready for the purpoſe, he repaired thither in the character of a dignitary of the Church, on the fourth of June, and was ſo bold, ſo adroit, or ſo ſucceſsful, in the exerciſe of this new profeſſion, that he retired in the evening to Wheeler's, in Weſtminſter, with money, watches, jewels, pocket-books, and their contents, &c. to the amount of upwards of four hundred pounds.

This extraordinary ſucceſs, and the apparent ſecurity with which the buſineſs he entered upon might be tranſacted, gave him a reliſh for his new profeſſion, and made him eager for plunder. And as for his ſcruples, if he ſtill retained any, Mr. Wheeler's arguments, the pleaſures of the town, and the ſight of his ſhare of the booty effectually quelled them. During the remainder of that ſummer, and the whole of the enſuing autumn, he viſited Tunbridge, Buxton, Weymouth, Brighthelmſtone, and ſome other bathing or watering places, always in the exerciſe of his newly-adopted calling, and ſtill ſucceſsful, being hitherto neither detected nor even ſuſpected; ſo that he returned

to

to London, in the beginning of the winter, with near five hundred pounds, which he had remaining, after living in a very elegant and expenſive ſtyle the whole preceding ſeaſon.

On his arrival in town, he laid aſide the garb and appearance of a parſon; and appeared in the uniform of an officer of the army. Dreſſed in regimentals, he frequented the play-houſes, the opera, and other polite places of public amuſement; and continued to pick pockets without detection, until he fell in, at Covent-Garden play-houſe, with Monſieur François, then ſecretary to the French embaſſy at the Court of London. This gentleman caught him in the very fact of picking his pocket, in the lobby of that theatre; and he was immediately given in charge to a conſtable, who took him into a neighbouring public-houſe, preparatory to his taking him to the watch-houſe, it being then at too unſeaſonable an hour to take him before a magiſtrate. Having a conſiderable ſum of money about him, he found means, with a very ſmall part of it, to bribe his keeper, who ſuffered him, for twenty guineas, to eſcape. Immediately, on recovering of his liberty, he ſet out for France, with all the money he could command; and, having rambled about that kingdom for two years, he went into Spain, where he remained ſome time, and thence he ſailed to Cork, in Ireland. In that kingdom he remained but a few months; for, ſeveral years having elapſed ſince his detection by the French ſecretary, and no proceedings being carried on againſt him during his abſence, he determined to return to London, in perfect confidence of ſafety, Monſieur François having long before left England, and retired into his own country; and the whole tranſaction, which occaſioned the precipitate flight of the pick-pocket, having been, in all probability, long ſince totally forgotten.

Such were the outlines of Mr. James's variegated ſtory, which Barrington heard with no ſmall degree of pleaſure.

Nor was it without good reaſon that he heard the narrative of S——r, now known by the name of James, his new acquaintance, with a good degree of ſatisfaction; for, being himſelf entirely ignorant of the town, he was ſenſible that the acquaintance of a man, who had ſo perfect a knowledge

knowledge of it as James poſſeſſed, could not but be extremely uſeful tohim in the line of life which he purſued; as without ſome ſuch connexion it would be difficult for him to diſpoſe, with any ſafety, of ſuch articles of value as might fall in his way in the courſe of his predatory excurſions. So true it is, that, without receivers of ſtolen goods, the depredations of thieves muſt be, in a great meaſure, confined to caſh, and, conſequently, be inconſiderable.

Barrington therefore propoſed to him, that they ſhould enter into a kind of partnerſhip, and carry on the buſineſs of picking pockets as a joint concern; a propoſal to which James affected to ſcruple agreeing, as inconſiſtent with the tenderneſs of his conſcience. His conſcience, however, was ſoon made eaſy, by his friend's jocularly reminding him of Captain Rolando's obſervations to Gil Blas, that all men are deſirous to appropriate to themſelves their neighbours property. Sovereigns ſeize on the territories of neighbouring princes, whenever they think doing ſo ſuits their purpoſes, without ſcruple or remorſe; people of faſhion run in debt and never pay their creditors; bankers and brokers are ſeldom reſtrained by conſcience in the intereſt they take, or the charges which they make; merchants, and traders of all kinds, are not more ſcrupulous in the profits which they exact of their unwary cuſtomers; and, as for lawyers of every denomination, their boundleſs rapacity is proverbial. The *mode* then of appropriating the property to one's ſelf, and not the *act* of doing ſo, is the ſole difference, between the moſt noted pick-pocket and the moſt powerful prince or the moſt opulent merchant. Such was the argument of this crafty adventurer, who perſuaded James to accede to the terms, which he propoſed, of carrying on buſineſs together, notwithſtanding the delicacy of his conſcience; ſo that, the preliminaries being thus ſettled, it was agreed upon, that they ſhould meet the next day at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in the Strand; and there, after they had dined, finally ſettle the definitive articles of the treaty, and alſo, the plan of their future operations. Matters being left in this ſtate, the meeting broke up, and Barrington returned by midnight to his lodgings at the Bath Coffee-houſe, where, luckily

luckily enough, neither Captain H——n nor any of his party happened yet to have arrived from Ranelagh.

The next morning, at breakfaſt, he informed his friend Mr. H——n, that, on his return laſt night, he chanced to meet a very worthy relation of his, Sir Fitzwilliam Barrington, who engaged him to dine with him that day, ſo that it would be out of his power to make one of the party that were to ſpend the day at the Thatched-houſe Tavern; but that, however, he would endeavour to join them early in the evening, and ſtay to ſupper with them, if they were bent upon keeping it up to a late hour.

Barrington dreſſed, called a coach, and drove to the Crown and Anchor Tavern, where he found Mr. James, who had been for ſome time waiting for him. Dinner being diſpatched, and the ſervants withdrawn, theſe worthy gentlemen entered on the buſineſs. And here it was agreed upon between them, that whatever either of them acquired ſhould be equally divided between them; and that, on the ſale of watches, jewels, or any other articles that they might have to diſpoſe of, they ſhould be both preſent. Thus no ſuſpicion of fraud could be entertained: and thus Barrington got what he greatly wanted, an introduction to a receiver of ſtolen goods. It was farther ſettled by them, that while Mr. H——n remained in town, they ſhould take care not to be ſeen publicly together, and that Mr. James ſhould reſume his long-neglected character of a clergyman. Theſe and other weighty points being adjuſted to the ſatisfaction of the parties, it was determined, that they ſhould meet regularly on Tueſdays and Fridays, to ſettle with each other; but never to meet twice at the ſame houſe. Having then adjourned to the next Tueſday, and fixed on the Devil Tavern, at Temple-bar, our adventurers ſeparated, Barrington going to the Thatched houſe Tavern. There he arrived about eight in the afternoon, and found his friend, Mr. H——n, and a large party of his acquaintance, rather far gone in liquor. Moſt of them knew him perſonally, and conſidering him in the light in which he was repreſented to them by Captain H——n, as a young man of condition, they were delighted with his company. And, indeed, the fact is, that at that period of his life, when his characte[illegible] this country was unſullied and un-

ſuſpected, the engaging urbanity of his manners, the politeneſs of his addreſs, and the genteel ſtyle of his converſation, rendered his company acceptable wherever he was introduced.

His preſence pleaſed the company, who were a good deal heated by wine; and who, when in their ſobereſt moments, were more diſtinguiſhed for ſpirit and generoſity than for prudence or diſcretion. A man of his temper and ſagacity did not neglect to avail himſelf of the advantages which their intoxication preſented; and he accordingly plundered thoſe of them without any ſcruple, but not before the reckoning was called for and the bill diſcharged.

This done, he and his friend Mr. H——n withdrew, and returned home to their lodging in Piccadilly, no one entertaining any ſuſpicion of the honour of Mr. Barrington, or of the depredations committed by him that night.

The booty taken by him on this occaſion was great; but, as the ſpoil conſiſted more of watches, and other trinkets, than of caſh, he was obliged to have recourſe to his accomplice Mr. James to turn it into ſpecie. He, therefore, early the next morning, called upon that profligate adventurer, who introduced him to a man, by whoſe means the ſtolen articles were quickly diſpoſed of, for what appeared to be an equitable price; and the money ariſing from the ſale of them was, according to agreement, equally divided.

A minute detail of the mean artifices or baſe exploits of a profeſſed pick-pocket, can afford very little inſtruction or entertainment to a liberal or enlightened mind. It will, therefore, on this head, be ſufficient to obſerve, that, as Barrington advanced in years, he continued the exerciſe of his ſcandalous profeſſion, and improved in the practice of it, but he, at the ſame time, advanced in reputation; for, he continued to cultivate his mind, and that with a degree of aſſiduity unexampled in one of his calling. He was remarkable for retaining very faithfully what he collected with great eaſe. One practice he ever had, which was eaſily obſerved. If any thought, or image, preſented itſelf to his mind, that he could uſe or improve, he did not ſuffer it to be loſt; but, amidſt the jollity of a tavern,

or in the warmth of an intereſting converſation, he very diligently committed it to paper.

This quality, among other ſocial and amiable qualities, which he poſſeſſed, at that time, in an eminent degree, rendered him a kind of popular character.

In the courſe of his depredations, he, in the ſummer of the year 1775, viſited the watering places; and, among the reſt, he went to Brighton, which at that time, though frequented by very genteel company, was far from having arrived at the celebrity which it has ſince acquired.

However, he here became acquainted, and intimate, with the late Duke of Ancaſter, Lord Ferrers, and Thomas Lord Lyttleton, with ſeveral other of the connexions of theſe noble perſons; who all conſidered him as a man of genius and ability, (which he was,) and as a gentleman of fortune, and noble family, (which he as certainly was not.)

But, however this may be, from Brighthelmſtone he made an excurſion to Chicheſter, in company with Lord L—— and Sir Alexander Leith, who lived at that time in the county of Suſſex. While he reſided in that city, he was ſhewn the curioſities of the cathedral, in themſelves certainly inſignificant and unintereſting enough. Among them was pointed out to him a family-vault, for the interment of the Dukes of Richmond, which was erected ſome years before, by the late Duke, and inſcribed:

"Domus ultima."

On this, the following epigram is ſaid to have been written by him, which being not deſtitute of merit, in that agreeable ſpecies of compoſition, is here given.

Did he, who thus inſcrib'd this wall,
Not *read*, or not *believe*, St. Paul?
Who ſays, "There is, where-e'er it ſtands,
"*Another* houſe, not made with hands:"
Or, ſhall we gather, from theſe words,
That *houſe* is not a *houſe* of Lords?

On his return to London, in the beginning of the winter of the year 1775, his way of life, and the nature of his purſuits, naturally connected him with the gay and the diſſolute, the thoughtleſs and the licentious. He affected all the airs of a young fellow of faſhion, and all the extravagances of a profeſſed man of pleaſure. He divided his time between the purſuit of faſhionable amuſements and the infamous occupation of picking pockets. But theſe two objects did not entirely occupy his time or his attention. The ſeaſons of plundering and of diſſipation were ſucceeded by intervals of retirement and ſtudy. In theſe, which ſometimes laſted for ſeveral weeks, he ſhut himſelf up, and devoted himſelf to the ſtudy of the beſt writers in the Engliſh language, the only one with which he was acquainted; and he had, in an eminent degree, this peculiarity, that, when he was the man of the world, the ſprightly wit, the agreeable companion, he had not entirely loſt ſight of books and literature.

In theſe moments of leiſure and reflection he compoſed an ode to LIGHT, not, indeed, regular in its conſtruction, nor of an artificial texture; but certainly not void of merit, and indicative of no ſmall degree of genius.

In the courſe of this winter he happened accidentally to fall in with one Lowe, a very ſingular and extraordinary character, with whom he formed an intimate connexion; employing him in the uſeful capacity of a receiver of ſtolen goods, which he had frequent occaſions to diſpoſe of.

This Lowe had been originally a livery-ſervant, but who now kept a public-houſe, in which he ſcraped up ſome money; he then commenced uſurer, and, by that vile buſineſs, acquired a ſmall fortune, and aſſumed the character of a gentleman. He afterwards took a genteel houſe in the neighbourhood of Bloomſbury-ſquare, where he reſided to the time of his death. He was, for one whoſe mind was entirely uncultivated, a man of uncommon addreſs. He, in general, paſſed for a very charitable and benevolent character, having performed many acts of beneficence through motives of policy or oſtentation; and he was a ſubſcriber to moſt of the public charities, in or about town, in order to give the world a high opinion of his exemplary

emplary virtues and generous feelings. By arts of this kind, he found means to get himſelf appointed to the ſtaton of treaſurer, or chief conductor, of a new hoſpital, for the reception of blind patients, at Kentiſh-town; in which capacity, it is ſaid, that he got into the poſſeſſion of upwards of five thouſand pounds. But, having been ſuſpected of ſetting fire to that building, he was apprehended at Liverpool, in the year 1779; and, to avoid the puniſhment due to the enormity of his offence, he poiſoned himſelf, and lies buried in a croſs-road in the neighbourhood of Preſcot, in Lancaſhire.

This connexion with Lowe rendered that with Mr. James, in a great meaſure, unneceſſary; and Barrington was the more willing to break with him, as ſome recent and unpleaſant altercations had taken place between them: the truth is, that James, though engaged in a moſt diſgraceful courſe of life, poſſeſſed learning and abilities, and was not entirely deſtitute of a ſenſe of honour or of a regard to moral obligation. But Barrington, who had at all times the very higheſt opinion of his own merit, was uſed to treat him with unbecoming freedom; and, on ſome occaſions, with indecent inſolence. In ſhort, though he had great merit, he had alſo many great failings, if conſidered as a ſocial companion; and the entire diſſolution of his connexion with the ſubject of theſe memoirs was ultimately beneficial to James; for, at this time, he (James) lives in a monaſtery in Weſtphalia, to which he ſome years ago retired, in an enviable ſtate of peace and penitence, reſpected for his talents, and loved for his amiable manners, by which he is diſtinguiſhed in an eminent degree. To him the editor of theſe memoirs is indebted, for the power of communicating theſe minute memorials of the life of George Barrington to the public; and to his converſation he is indebted for the knowledge of the ſtory of that ſingular and extraordinary adventurer.

Barrington, on his forming a connexion with Lowe, advanced with new audacity in the exerciſe of his practices as a pick pocket. His reputation for genius and literature ſupported him in the opinion of his acquaintance, and their good opinion of him conſiderably facilitated the

ſucceſs

ſucceſs of his depredations; for, by their countenance and introduction, he got acceſs to the company of young men of affluence, whoſe unguarded and unſuſpected character offered to him an ample field to plunder with impunity. The boldneſs, the indecency, and the licentiouſneſs, of his behaviour, on ſome occaſions, drew on him the cenſure of ſome of the moſt reſpectable of his friends. However, his failings were readily pardoned and overlooked; for, it is well known, that much will be forgiven to a man in his youth, who has the appearance of birth and fortune.

This connexion with Lowe was but a ſhort time previous to that evening of the month of January, which is obſerved as the anniverſary of the Queen's birth-day; it was reſolved on between them, that, habited as a clergyman, he ſhould repair to court, and there endeavour, not only to pick the pockets of ſome of the company, but, what was a much bolder and a much more novel attempt, to cut off the diamond orders of ſome of the Knights of the Garter, Bath, and Thiſtle, who, on ſuch days, uſually wear the collars of their reſpective orders. In this enterprize he ſucceeded beyond their moſt ſanguine expectations; for, he found means to take the diamond order of Lord C——, with which he got away from St. James's perfectly unſuſpected.

This valuable acquiſition, by the aſſiſtance and agency of Lowe, he diſpoſed of for eight hundred pounds to one Lurſhan, a Dutchman, who uſually made a trip from Haerlem to England, once a year, for the expreſs purpoſe of purchaſing jewels that had been fraudulently or feloniouſly obtained, and for which he gave what the ſharpers, or thieves, with whom he dealt, conſidered an equitable price; at leaſt, much more than the London receivers were uſed to give.

In the courſe of the winter of the year 1775, Prince Orlow, a Ruſſian nobleman, of the firſt rank and conſequence, viſited England. The ſplendor in which he lived, and the high favor in which he ſtood at the court of Ruſſia, were frequently noticed in the public prints; and particularly his poſſeſſing a gold ſnuff-box, ſet with brilliants,

liants, which was preſented to him by the Empreſs, and which was generally valued at the enormous ſum of thirty thouſand pounds. This precious trinket excited, in an extraordinary manner, the attention of Barrington, and he determined to exert himſelf in order to get it into his poſſeſſion. For this, a favourable opportunity preſented itſelf one night at Covent-garden play-houſe; and this experienced pick-pocket did not neglect to avail himſelf of it. He contrived to be near the prince, and found means to convey the treaſure from his excellency's waiſtcoat-pocket, in which, according to the Ruſſian cuſtom, it was uſually carried, into his own.

This operation was not, however, performed in ſuch a manner as to eſcape inſtant detection. For, the prince felt the attack, and, having reaſon to entertain ſome ſuſpicion of Barrington, he immediately ſeized him by the collar. Such an action, in a public theatre, naturally occaſioned ſome buſtle as well as ſurpriſe; and, during the confuſion that enſued, he ſlipped the box into the nobleman's hand, who was, doubtleſs, glad to have recovered it with ſo much facility. The thief was, however, ſecured, and committed to Tothill fields bridewell, for examination on the Wedneſday following at Bow-ſtreet.

At the time appointed he was brought before Sir John Fielding, and examined, not only on the offence for which he was taken into cuſtody, but alſo relative to his family, his profeſſion, and his connexions. On this occaſion he repreſented himſelf as a native of Ireland, where his family, he ſaid, were affluent and reſpectable; that he was educated in the medical line; and that he came to London, to improve himſelf in the knowledge of it: all theſe circumſtances he repreſented with becoming modeſty, and with many tears, neither abſolutely denying the crime with which he was charged at the play-houſe, nor formally avowing his guilt. So that, after all, the prince declining to proceed againſt him, and no proſecutor appearing, he was diſmiſſed, after receiving a proper reprimand from the magiſtrate.

An accident of ſuch a nature as this was could not remain long a ſecret in ſuch a place as London. An account

count of it was ſoon circulated, and Barrington, now held up to view in the moſt diſgraceful light of an impoſtor, (even from his own account of himſelf at Bow-ſtreet, where he paſſed for a ſurgeon,) was forſaken by the greateſt part of thoſe who, until then, countenanced him, and delighted in his company.

There were, however, ſome few who ſtill reſpected his talents, and who, while they contemplated in him the ſprightly wit and the agreeable companion, were contented to forget the pick-pocket, or, at leaſt, were inclined to believe him innocent of the offences with which he was ſo publicly charged. But even of theſe he loſt, in a little time, the countenance and ſupport, in conſequence of an act of indiſcretion, not immediately connected with the habits of depredation, in which he was by this time irrevocably confirmed by a long courſe of ſucceſsful practice.

In his purſuits as a pick-pocket, he, as has been already mentioned, viſited all the genteel places of reſort, and, among the reſt, he occaſionally attended at both Houſes of Parliament, where he is ſaid to have acquired conſiderable ſums. Some weeks after his ignominious affair at Covent-garden, he went down to the Houſe of Peers, where an appeal of an intereſting nature was, on that day, to be heard and determined. As public curioſity was a good deal excited by this cauſe, a great number of people attended to hear the event of the deciſion of it. Among theſe there was one Mr. G——, who knew our adventurer.

This gentleman immediately informed Mr. Quarme, the deputy gentleman-uſher of the black-rod, that the perſon, who had been ſo lately before detected in the act of picking the pocket of Prince Orlow, was then in the lobby of the Houſe, probably for the purpoſe of renewing his depredations. On this information being communicated to the deputy black-rod, Barrington was ſought after, and turned out by the officers, who informed him of the cauſe of their conduct towards him, and of the name of their informant againſt him.

This

This disagreeable incident filled him with inexpressible rage and indignation, particularly against Mr. G—; and he, with great indiscretion, vowed in public to revenge it. intelligence of the resolution, and of the menaces which dictated it, being conveyed to Mr. G——, he made application to a magistrate, who granted a warrant to take the pick-pocket into custody, and to bind him over to keep the peace. In consequence of this warrant he was taken up, and, for want of proper sureties, he was committed to his former apartments in Tothill-fields Bridewell, where he remained for a considerable time confined, from his inability to procure the bail that was required. During his imprisonment the whole of his story was industriously circulated, probably not without some aggravation; so that, on his procuring his enlargement, his character was completely blasted. The entry to all decent company was absolutely shut against him; and he was set down as a professed impostor and a common pick-pocket.

From this time forward, he was obliged to descend to all the mean practices and arts of a common and professed pilferer.

But, even in the humble line of infamous depredation, in which he was thus reduced to move, he was, in less than three months, discovered; and having been detected in the fact of stealing a silver watch, of inconsiderable value, from a woman of low condition, at Drury-lane playhouse, he was indicted; and, having been tried at the Old-bailey, he was there convicted, and sentenced to hard labour, on the river Thames, for the term of three years.

In consequence of this sentence, he was, early in the year 1777, removed from Newgate to Woolwich, where he was put on-board one of the hulks.

In this receptacle of wretchedness and vice, he found himself exposed to such complicated misery as he had never before known; and to such fatal diseases as he had never before felt. He was fatigued with hard labour, and harrassed with all the evils of indigence, confinement, and obloquy; yet he bore up against all the weight of woe, under which he laboured, with a degree of patience, re-

ſignation, and conſtancy, worthy of a better cauſe than that in which he ſuffered. Fortune at length declared in his favour, and freedom became the recompence of his exemplary conduct during the period of his captivity; for, on the recommendation of Meſſrs. Erſkine and Duncan Campbell, the ſuperintendants or governors of the convicts, a pardon was granted to him; and, after ſomewhat leſs than a twelvemonth's ſevere ſufferings on the Thames, he was ſet at large.

It may well be ſuppoſed, that his reſidence in the neighbourhood of Woolwich, or the converſation of the unhappy criminals with whom he was obliged to aſſociate during his captivity there, did not contribute to reform his morals or to eſtabliſh his character for integrity. The fact is, that, as ſoon as he procured his liberty, he returned to London, and reverted with increaſed induſtry to the practice of the crimes for which he had been ſo recently puniſhed.

But he was, by this time, too much noted by the town to be allowed to proceed long, with impunity, in the infamous career which he had choſen to run. In leſs than half a year after his enlargement from the hulks he was again detected, by the vigilance of one Payne, at that time a very active peace-officer in the city, in the fact of picking pockets in St. Sepulchre's church, during the time of the celebration of divine ſervice before the Humane Society. And, having been convicted of this offence at the Old-bailey, he was a ſecond time ſentenced to hard labour on the Thames, and that for the term of five years.

Upon his trial, on this occaſion, it was that he appeared to have firſt diſtinguiſhed himſelf as a public ſpeaker. He endeavoured, with much art, but without any ſucceſs, to work upon the feelings of the court and jury; but the proofs againſt him were ſo clear, that he was found guilty; and, purſuant to his ſentence, he was removed once more to the hulks at Woolwich, about the middle of the year 1778.

When he was this ſecond time put on-board one of thoſe priſon-ſhips, he either found his ſufferings more intolerable, or his ſituation to be more deſperate, than they appeared

appeared to him on his firſt confinement; a circumſtance which is ſaid to have made him engage in a variety of ſchemes to effect an eſcape.

All which plans the vigilance of his keepers rendered abortive. And the repeated diſappointments experienced by him, in theſe efforts to gain his liberty, affected his ſpirits to ſuch a degree, that he determined upon ſuicide; and, in conſequence of this impious reſolution, he ſtabbed himſelf with a penknife. The wound, though deep and dangerous, did not prove mortal; and, medical aſſiſtance being called in, a cure was effected. It was, however, effected very ſlowly, and the wound, having been given in the breaſt, ſeemed, in its effects, after near two years continuance, to bring on a conſumption, and there ſeemed to be no other proſpect before him but that of a lingering and a miſerable death.

While he remained in this deplorable ſituation, it happened, fortunately for him, that Sir M—— L——, a gentleman of rank and conſequence, happened to viſit the hulks, and to enquire into the ſtate of the convicts. This gentleman, who was of the moſt benevolent character, and poſſeſſed of the moſt feeling heart, was led by curioſity to converſe with Barrington; and his emaciated and ſqualid appearance ſo moved him with compaſſion, that he applied for a remiſſion of the remaining part of his ſentence; which was granted, on condition of his immediately leaving England on his enlargement, and never more returning to it. And, in order to enable him to fulfil his promiſe, a ſum of money was given to him to defray the expence of his journey to Ireland, his native country.

On his obtaining his freedom, he returned to London; where, however, he had the prudent precautioh of ſtaying no longer than he conceived to be abſolutely neceſſary to procure ſuch a ſufficiency of money or valuables as might enable him to appear at Dublin in the character of a gentleman. By an extraordinary piece of good fortune, he was enabled, by a booty of near a hundred pounds, in caſh, bank-notes, and watches, which he got in the courſe of the week after his arrival from Woolwich, to effect this; which was no ſooner completed, than he took

a place in the Cheſter ſtage-coach, and, in leſs than ſix days afterward arrived ſafely in the Iriſh capital; from which he had been now ſo many years abſent that he conſidered himſelf as totally forgotten in it.

But his hopes of living long in Dublin, entirely unknown and unſuſpected, ſoon turned out to be one of thoſe imaginary proſpects, with which he was frequently accuſtomed to amuſe himſelf. He happened to fall in with ſeveral perſons who recollected his perſon in London, and who were well acquainted with his ſtory; and he was, by this time, in every point of view, ſo ſtriking or ſo notorious a character, that to be known and to be ſuſpected was one and the ſame thing.

Continuing his vicious practices, in his own country, with a degree of induſtry and audacity not inferior to what he had exerciſed on this ſide the water, he was, in the courſe of a little time, taken into cuſtody, by the officers of the Iriſh police, for picking the pocket of a nobleman of a gold watch, together with ſome money, at one of the play-houſes, and he was committed to the New Goal, to take his trial for that offence.

The proſecution not being managed on this occaſion with much vigour, or, perhaps, the evidence not being ſufficiently clear to eſtabliſh the guilt of the priſoner, he was acquitted, and diſcharged, after having been ſeriouſly admoniſhed by the judge before whom he was tried.

In the courſe of his trial, he addreſſed the court and jury in a very animated manner; adverting, with great art, to what he called the unaccountable force of the prejudices that were ſo unjuſtly entertained againſt him in the ſiſter-country, even after he had been diſcharged, *as a reformed character*, from a place which the legiſlature formally and expreſsly declares to have been appointed for the expreſs purpoſe of operating the reformation of young offenders, and rendering them uſeful and reſpectable members of the commonwealth. "Gentlemen, (added he, in concluſion,) I ſolemnly declare that I am not guilty of the charge now brought againſt me; nor does the evidence produced apply to me. Thus, ſupported by conſcious innocence, I wait for your verdict, without any painful apprehenſion, as knowing

knowing that, to men of your liberality of ſentiment, I am not an object of thoſe prejudices that operated ſo fatally againſt me in another place; and that your decree will be the reſult of feeling hearts, directed by enlightened underſtandings."

But, though acquitted on this occaſion in Dublin, he quickly determined to leave Ireland, of which the capital ſeemed to him to be a theatre of action too circumſcribed for him to move in. He accordingly removed to the northern parts of that kingdom, through which he took his way to Edinburgh, where he concluded that he might, for ſome time at leaſt, commit his depredations with greater ſafety and facility than he could do either in London or Dublin.

But in his opinion on this head he ſoon learned, by experience, that he was groſsly deceived, for he was quickly obſerved in the capital of Scotland, where the police is more exact and more ſevere than in moſt other parts of the Britiſh dominions. Being obſerved, he was ſuſpected; but, having received ſome intimation of the ſuſpicions that were entertained of him, he thought it prudent to depart from Edinburgh, where his gleanings were comparatively ſmall.

The ſmallneſs, however, of his acquiſitions in Scotland was amply compenſated for by the extraordinary ſucceſs of his depredations at Cheſter Fair, which he viſited on his return to England through Carliſle; for, it is ſaid, that, in the courſe of his expedition to that linen fair, he contrived to get into his poſſeſſion to the amount of ſix hundred pounds in caſh and bank-notes, with which he got clear off, returning once more to London, to which he ſeems to have been attracted by a kind of unaccountable fatality.

On his arrival here, he lived in a genteel but retired manner, in the neighbourhood of Soho-ſquare. It was about this time, that, leaning againſt a poſt, and viewing the fire, in Greek-ſtreet, a ſtack of chimeys fell and fractured his ſkull—of which accident, however, he got completely cured, being reſerved, we fear (as the proverb goes) unleſs he at laſt feels the neceſſity of reformation, for a more ſhameful end. He continued to obſerve a quiet and decent way of life while the ſpoils of Cheſter Fair afforded him the means.

But

But the produce of theſe ſpoils being neatly exhauſted in the courſe of ſome months, he returned to his old courſes, notwithſtanding the additional danger which attended his public appearance to reſume them, from the terms in which he was liberated from his confinement on-board the hulks; which were, on condition of his leaving this kingdom, and never more returning to it.

However, unterrified by the danger, he again frequented the Theatres, the Opera-houſe and the Pantheon, for ſome little time, with tolerable ſucceſs: but he became now too notorious to be long ſecure; and, being recognized, he was cloſely watched and well-nigh detected at the latter of theſe places; at leaſt, ſuch ſtrong ſuſpicions were entertained by the magiſtrates of his conduct on the occaſion that he was taken into cuſtody, and committed to Newgate.

The evidence againſt him, however, was far from being clear enough to convict him of the offence with which he was then charged; ſo that, of courſe, he got rid of the conſequences without much difficulty or riſque. He was, however, detained at the inſtance of Mr. Duncan Campbell, the ſuperintendant of the convicts, for having returned to England, in violation of the condition on which his Majeſty was pleaſed to grant him a remiſſion of the puniſhment, which he was ſentenced to undergo on-board the hulks at Woolwich; and the conſequence of the detainer was, that he was ordered to ſerve out in Newgate the unexpired part of the time that he was originally to have ſerved on the river Thames. When the period of his captivity in this priſon expired, he was, as a matter of courſe, ſet at liberty; and he no ſooner obtained his liberty, than he returned to his former practices. He, however, was now more cautious; and, being connected with ſome very adroit accomplices, he was not ſo eaſily detected as he uſed to be on former occaſions.

He was, nevertheleſs, ſtrongly ſuſpected. Hence it came to paſs, that he lived in a ſtate of perpetual alarm, was expoſed to frequent interruptions, and was ſeveral times taken into cuſtody, but as repeatedly diſcharged for want of proofs to bring the guilt home to him.

In this manner he lived a conſiderable time, in the ſociety of the moſt profligate and abandoned characters of this vaſt and corrupt town, when he was ſeen to pick the pocket of Mr. le Meſurier, at Drury-lane play-houſe; and for that offence he was immediately apprehended.

Charge of him was given to one Blandy, a conſtable, who, either through negligence or corruption, ſuffered him to make his eſcape. The proceedings againſt him were, however, carried on to an outlawry, and various methods were ineffectually taken, for near two years, to have him apprehended.

While the lawyers were outlawing him, and the conſtables endeavouring to take him, he was travelling in various diſguiſes, and in various characters, through the northern counties of this kingdom. He viſited the great towns, in thoſe parts, as a Quack Doctor, or as a Clergyman; ſometimes he went with an EO table, and ſometimes he pretended to be a rider to a manufacturing houſe at Birmingham or Mancheſter; and travelling on horſe-back, with a decent appearance and a grave deportment, the account which he thought proper to give of him was credited, without any difficulty, by thoſe who thought proper to queſtion him.

It, however, ſometimes happened that he was known by gentlemen whom he met, particularly once in Lincolnſhire, but no one offered to moleſt or interrupt him, until he arrived at Newcaſtle upon Tyne, where, on being recognized, he was ſuſpected of picking pockets, and, on enquiry, he was found to be outlawed; on which he was removed, by a writ of *Habeas Corpus*, to London, and impriſoned in Newgate, where he arrived poor, emaciated, and dejected.

The companions of his life, as a diſtinguiſhed character in his line, however, on learning his circumſtances, made a ſubſcription for him, by which they collected near an hundred guineas for his uſe; and, by this ſeaſonable ſupply, he was enabled to employ council, and to take meaſures to have the outlawry reverſed.

This being done, he was tried for the original offence, that of ſtealing Mr. Le Meſurier's purſe; but, through the abſence of the Rev. Mr. Adeane, a material witneſs for the proſecution, he was acquitted and diſcharged. On

On his getting his liberty he went into Ireland, in company with a young man of the name of Hubert, well known in town for his fraud on his Royal Highneſs the Duke of York. With this accomplice he endeavoured to carry on his depredations in Dublin, where it was never his fortune to remain for any length of time undetected. For, on this occaſion, Hubert was taken in the fact of picking a gentleman's pocket, and handing the property to Barrington, who, with great difficulty, made his eſcape to England, where he rambled about for ſome time, previous to his arrival in the capital; and he had not been long in London, or the neighbourhood of it, when he was taken into cuſtody for picking the pocket of Mr. Henry Hare Townſend.

As for Hubert, he was tried and convicted at Dublin, and ſentenced to be tranſported for ſeven years; but having, ſince then, contrived to make his eſcape from the priſon in which he was confined, he is ſaid to be now lurking at large.

ON Wedneſday morning, September 15, 1790, Barrington was arraigned for ſtealing, on the 1ſt of September, a gold watch, chain, and ſeals, and a metal key, the property of Henry Hare Townſend, Eſq.

When he was aſked, as uſual, by the clerk of the arraigns, whether he was guilty or not guilty of the felony with which he ſtood charged, he addreſſed Mr. Recorder (the only Judge on the bench) as follows:

" My Lord,

" It is with great concern that I interrupt the buſineſs of the court for a ſingle moment, but I am under the neceſſity of ſtating to your lordſhip, that when I was taken into cuſtody on ſuſpicion of this felony, every article about my perſon

perſon was taken from me; and although the gentleman, who is my accuſer, did not attempt to ſay any money was loſt, my money was alſo taken from me; and, although I have made application that this money may be reſtored, it is, however, ſtill detained; by which detention, my Lord, I have been hindered from taking thoſe proper meaſures for my defence, and from obtaining that legal aſſiſtance, which my unfortunate ſituation peculiarly requires."

Mr. Recorder. Mr. Barrington, it is impoſſible for me to decide, previous to your trial, what is your property; but, when your proſecutor appears, every thing which has been taken from you, and which is not neceſſary to be identified on your trial, ſhall be reſtored to you.

George Law, the conſtable, produced the articles above mentioned, as alſo a ſilk purſe, with twenty guineas, which were taken from Mr. Barrington, at the time he was taken into cuſtody.

Mr. Recorder. Mr. Barrington, I ſhall order your money to be returned to you.

On Friday Barrington was put to the bar, and the indictment was read as before.

Henry Hare Townſend, Eſq. ſworn.

On the 1ſt of September I was at Enfield Marſh, on account of the races; I believe it was near two o'clock, that is the time that is fixed for the horſes to ſtart; I was on foot; I went on the ground in a phaëton; I got out of the phaëton, and was walking about; I did not miſs my watch till I was ſpoke to by a Mr. Blades; I miſſed it from my waiſtcoat pocket; I had a new pair of leather breeches on, and was afraid the ſeals would dirt them; it was a gold watch and chain, and metal key; I felt my watch in my pocket after I came on the ground; I think it muſt have been a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes before I miſſed it. I recovered my watch again, but I do not recollect who produced it to me; the watch was given to Lady Lake, and ſhe took it home with her; and, when we took Mr. Barrington before the juſtice, I ſent for the watch, and the watch was given to me by a ſervant.

Walduck ſworn.

I am coachman to Mr. Townſend, I knew nothing of the matter till I helped to take the priſoner to the booth; I had one hand on his collar and the other hold of his right hand which was open. He could have nothing at all in his right hand. I was left in care of him. I put him at the back of the booth, and there was a carpet nailed at the back of that. I ſaw the watch drop between Barrington and the carpet, it apparently fell on the left ſide of him behind him, I ſaw it as it jingled down before it reached the ground.

Mary Danby.

I was in the next booth to that in which the priſoner was brought in, I was but a very little way off him, there was noe body between him and me, nothing but the partition; I was next the partition, the priſoner was ſideways to me when he dropped the watch on his ſide; he dropped the watch from his hand; I told him of it at the time; I cannot recollect which hand his hand; was by the ſide of him at the time I ſaw it drop from him, and I mentioned it to him at the time.

Priſoner's Defence.

"May it pleaſe your Lordſhip, and you Gentlemen of the Jury, to favour me with your attention for a little time; The ſituation of every perſon who has the misfortune to ſtand here is extremely diſtreſſing and aukward; mine is ſo in a peculiar degree: if I am totally ſilent, it may be conſidered, perhaps, as a proof of guilt, and if I preſumed to offer thoſe arguments which preſent themſelves to my my mi in my defence, they may not perhaps be favoured with that attention which they might deſerve; yet I by no means diſtruſt the candor and benevolence of the Jury, and, therefore I will beg leave to proceed to ſtate the circumſtances of the caſe, as they occur to me, not doubting but they will meet with ſome degree of credit, notwithſtanding the unhappy ſituation I am in. Gentlemen, I was on the Race Ground at Enfield, obſerving the race on the day that the indictment mentions, where I found myſelf ſurrounded by Mr. Townſend and numbers of others; Mr. Townſend ſaid

ſaid, "Your name is Barrington, and you have taken my watch!" I told him he was right as to my name, but he accuſed me unjuſtly; however, I would go any where with him; I was removed from thence to a ſtand, from whence the races were viewed; it conſiſted of two booths, and they were ſeparate from each other with only a railing elbow high; and it is a great misfortune to me, Gentlemen of the Jury, that you were not able to obſerve the ſituation of thoſe booths: for, if you had, you would have found it nearly impoſſible that ſome circumſtances which have come from the witneſſes could have been true. I was cloſe to the railing that ſeparated the two booths, and ſome perſon ſaid. "Here is a watch!" This watch Mr. Townſend claimed, and ſaid it was his. I was removed from thence to the Angel at Edmonton, where the examination took place; and I am very ſorry to be under the neceſſity of obſerving, that a very material difference has taken place in the depoſitions delivered that day before the magiſtrate in various reſpects. A witneſs, the coachman, poſitively declared that he did not ſee this watch in my hand, that he did not ſee me take it from my pocket, that he did not ſee it drop from my perſon, but that he ſaw it on the ground, and he might have gone ſo far as to ſay he ſaw it fall; I took the liberty of aſking him one queſtion, Whether he had ſeen the watch in my hand, whether he had ſeen it fall from me? He declared he did not. I then aſked him, whether he could take upon himſelf to ſwear, from the ſituation he ſtood in at the adjoining booth, that this watch might not have dropped from ſome other perſon; he declared he could not obſerve any ſuch thing. Gentlemen, with reſpect to the evidence of Kendrick, he made the ſame declaration then. Mr. Townſend has brought me here, under the charge of having committed felony; he has told you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that he loſt his watch out of his pocket, and that pocket was a waiſtcoat pocket; that he was in a very extraordinary ſituation; that he was on the race-ground, where certainly the greateſt decorum is not always obſerved; and he was alſo in a ſituation which expoſed him more to the preſſure he complained of, than any other perſon; for, inſtead of his horſe being in poſſeſſion of his jockey or groom, he attended

it himſelf; and I muſt beg leave to obſerve, Gentlemen of the Jury, that it is a cuſtom, where people bet money as races, to wiſh to ſee the horſe immediately after the heat it over, ſo that the preſſure which Mr. Townſend had, or what he thought he had from me, could not appear very extraordinary; and I am under the neceſſity of ſaying, his fancy has rather been improved on the occaſion. With reſpect, Gentlemen, to the laſt witneſs that has appeared, I will not ſay any thing on the occaſion; that will reſt entirely upon you. It was a circumſtance, however, of a moſt extraordinary nature, that this perſon ſhould never come forward till the preſent moment; and, whether the contradictions and ſtrange accounts ſhe has given of herſelf are ſuch as to entitle her to any credit, particularly in a ſituation where the life and liberty of another perſon is at ſtake, is not for me to obſerve upon. Gentlemen of the Jury, it may, perhaps, be expected by many perſons, in this place, that I ſhould ſay a great deal about prepoſſeſſion and newſpaper reports; and, if I had the ability to do it, perhaps I ſhould not be blamed; for, he who has been the unhappy object of much defamation has ſurely a right to deprecate its baneful effects: where much pains have been taken to defame, ſome pains may be ſurely allowed to abate that defamation. Gentlemen, that it has been the hard lot of ſome unhappy perſons to have been convicted of crimes they really did not commit, leſs through evidence than ill-natured report, is, doubtleſs, certain; and, doubtleſs there are many reſpectable perſons, now in Court, fully convinced of the truth of that obſervation. Such times, it is to be hoped, are paſſed; I dread not ſuch a conviction in my own perſon; I am well convinced of the noble nature of a Britiſh Court of Juſtice; the dignified and benign principles of its Judges, and the liberal and candid ſpirit of its Jurors.

" Gentlemen, life is the gift of God; and liberty its greateſt bleſſing: the power of diſpoſing of both, or either, is the greateſt man can enjoy. It it alſo adventitious that, great as that power is, it cannot be better placed than in the hands of an Engliſh Jury; for, they will not exerciſe it like tyrants, who delight in blood but like generous and

brave

brave men, who delight to ſpare rather than to deſtroy; and who, not forgetting they are men themſelves, lean, when they can, to the ſide of compaſſion. It may be thought, Gentlemen of the Jury, that I am applying to your paſſions; and, if I had the power to do it, I would not fail to employ it: the paſſions animate the heart; and to the paſſions we owe our deareſt and fineſt feelings; and when it is conſidered, the mighty power you now poſſeſs, whatever leads to a cautious and tender diſcharge of it muſt be thought of great conſequence: as long as the paſſions conduct us on the ſide of benevolence, they are our beſt, our ſafeſt, and our moſt friendly, guides. Gentlemen of the Jury, Mr. Townſend has depoſed that he loſt his watch, but how, I truſt, is by no means clear; I truſt, Gentlemen, you will conſider the great the almoſt impoſſibility, that having had the watch in my poſſeſſion for ſo long a time, time ſufficient to have concealed it in a variety of places, to have conveyed it to town, it ſhould ſtill be in my poſſeſſion. You have heard from Mr. Townſend, that there was an interval of at leaſt half an hour between the time of loſing the watch and my being taken into cuſtody: there is ſomething, Gentlemen, impoſſible in the circumſtance; and, on the other hand, it has ſometimes happened, that remorſe, a generous remorſe, has ſtruck the minds of perſons in ſuch a manner as to have induced them to ſurrender themſelves into the hands of Juſtice rather than an innocent perſon ſhould ſuffer. It is not, therefore, I ſuppoſe, improbable, that, if Mr. Townſend loſt his watch by an act of felony, the perſon who had the watch in his poſſeſſion, feeling for the ſituation of an unhappy man, might be induced to place that watch on the ground. But it is by no means certain how Mr Townſend loſt his watch, whether by an act of felony, or whether by accident; it might have fallen into the hands of ſome other perſon, and that perſon, feeling for my unhappy ſituation, might have been induced to reſtore it. I humbly hope, that the circumſtances of the caſe are ſuch as may induce a ſcrupulous Jury to make a favourable deciſion; and I am very well convinced that you will not be led by any other circumſtances than thoſe of the preſent caſe; either from reports of former misfortunes, or by the fear of my fall-

ing into ſimilar ones. I am now juſt thirty-two years of age, (ſhall be ſo next month); it is nearly half the life of man; it is not worth while being impatient to provide for the other half, ſo far as to do any thing unworthy. Gentlemen, in the courſe of my life I have ſuffered much diſtreſs, I have felt ſomething of the viciſſitudes of fortune, and now, from obſervation, I am convinced, upon the whole, there is no joy but what ariſes from the practice of virtue, and conſiſts in the felicity of a tranquil mind and a benevolent heart; ſources of conſolation which the moſt proſperous circumſtances do not always furniſh, and which may be felt under the moſt indigent. It will be my ſtudy, Gentlemen, to poſſeſs them; nor will the heavieſt affliction of poverty, pain, or diſgrace, cauſe me to part with reſolutions founded on deepeſt reflection, and which will end but with life. I will periſh on the pavement before I will deviate from them. For my own part, whatever your verdict may be, I truſt I ſhall be enabled to meet it with a firmneſs of mind: he, indeed, has little to fear from death, whoſe fame is tarniſhed, and who has endured the ceaſeleſs abuſe of unfeeling minds; when Heaven accepts contrition, it receives into favour when it pardons; but man, more cruel than his Maker, purſues his offending brother with unrelenting ſeverity, and marks a deviation from rectitude with a never-dying infamy, and with unceaſing ſuſpicion and reproach, which ſeem to exclude him from the pale of virtue. Gentlemen of the Jury, the thought of death may appal the rich and proſperous, but, on the other hand, the unfortunate cannot have much to fear from it; yet the tenderneſs of nature cannot be quite ſubdued by the utmoſt degree of human reſolution, and I cannot be inſenſible to the woes which muſt be felt by an affectionate companion and an infant offspring; and there is beſides a principle in human nature, ſtronger even than the fear of death, and which can hardly fail to operate ſome time or other in life; I mean, the deſire of good fame. Under that laudable influence, Gentlemen, if I am acquitted, I will quickly retire into ſome diſtant land, where my name and misfortunes will be alike unknown; where harmleſs manners ſhall ſhield me from the imputation of guilt, and where prejudice will not

be

be liable to misrepresentation; and I do now assure you, Gentlemen of the Jury, that I feel a cheering hope, even at this awful moment, that the rest of my life will be so conducted as to make me as much an object of esteem and applause as I am now the unhappy object of censure and suspicion." GUILTY.

After the verdict was pronounced, the Lord Chief Baron thus addressed the prisoner:

"Mr. Barrington, hitherto I have conducted myself towards you as if I had never seen you before; but now, when nothing which I can say can prejudice the Jury, I must say that you have been treated with much more favour than you deserve. This ought to have been a capital indictment, and it ought to have reached your life; and public justice very much calls for such a sacrifice; for, if there was a man in the world that abused and prostituted great talents to the most unworthy and shameful purposes, you are that man; and you have done it against all warning, against the example of your own case, and of a thousand other cases that have occurred; and I am afraid, that now, as the punishment does not reach your life, I cannot entertain the least hope that you will in any manner reform; but that the end of it will be, that you must be a shameful spectacle at your latter end."

Mr. Barrington bowed and retired.

On Wednesday the 22d of September, 1790, the Recorder pronounced the sentence of the Court upon him, which was, That he be transported for the term of seven years, to such parts beyond the seas as his Majesty in Council should be pleased to direct.

After his sentence was passed, Barrington addressed the Court in a sort of valedictory speech, conceived in nearly the following terms:

"My Lord,

"I have a great deal to say in extenuation of the crime for which I now stand convicted at this bar; but, upon consideration, I will not arrest the attention of the honourable Court too long. Among the extraordinary vicissitudes incident to human nature, it is the peculiar and unfortunate lot

lot of ſome devoted perſons to have their beſt wiſhes, and moſt earneſt endeavours, to deſerve the good opinion of the moſt reſpectable part of ſociety, entirely fruſtrated. Whatever they can ſay, or whatever they may do, every word and its meaning, every action and its motive, is repreſented in an unfavourable light, and is diſtorted from the real intention of the ſpeaker or the actor.

"That this has been my unhappy fate does not ſeem to ſtand in need of any confirmation.

"Every effort to deſerve well of mankind, that my heart bore witneſs to its rectitude, has been by ſuch meaſures as thoſe, and conſequently has been rendered abortive. Many of the circumſtances of my life, I can, without any violation of truth, declare to have, therefore, happened abſolutely in ſpite of myſelf.

"The world, my Lord, has given me credit for abilities, indeed much greater than I poſſeſs, and, therefore, much greater than I deſerved; but I have never found any kind hand to foſter theſe abilities.

"I might aſk, where was the generous and powerful hand that was ever ſtretched forth to reſcue George Barrington from infamy? In an age like this, which, in ſeveral reſpects, is ſo juſtly famed for liberal ſentiments, it was my ſevere lot, that no noble-minded gentleman ſtepped forward and ſaid to me, Barrington, *you are poſſeſſed of talents which may be uſeful to ſociety. I feel for your ſituation; and, as long as you act the part of a good citizen, I will be your protector: you will then have time and opportunity to reſcue yourſelf from the obloquy of your former conduct.*

"Alas, my Lord, George Barrington had never the ſupreme felicity of having ſuch comfort adminiſtered to his wounded ſpirit. As matters have unfortunately turned out, the die is caſt; and, as it is, I bend, reſigned to my fate, without one murmur or complaint."

After having ſpoken in this manner, with more elegance, perhaps, than reaſon or truth, he bowed reſpectfully to the court, the jury, und the auditory, and withdrew ſtom the public ſcene, at leaſt, in Europe, probably for ever, in the thirty-fifth year of his age.

THE END,